

DR GA NOTE

TX20 BULLETIN NEW LEAD AND SUB RELATIVES

BY RAYMOND WILCOVE

WASHINGTON- SEPT. 16--(INS)--FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WALTER BEDELL SMITH SAID TODAY THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT EMPLOY PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR RELATIVES.

BUT HE TOLD A HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEADED BY REP. PORTER HARDY (D) VA.- THAT HE KNEW OF NO SUCH REJECTIONS WHEN HE WAS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN 1953-54.

SMITH WAS ASKED BY HARDY WHAT HE KNEW OF "ONE OR TWO" SUCH CASES MENTIONED BY DR. HENRY M. WRISTON- PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF BROWN UNIVERSITY WHO HEADED A STUDY OF STATE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL PROBLEMS. MORE 116PJM

TX21 ADD ONE NEW LEAD RELATIVES (WILCOVE) WASHN XXX PROBLEMS.

WRISTON SAID THE CASES INVOLVED APPLICANTS FOR THE U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE WHO PASSED THEIR SECURITY TESTS BUT WERE TURNED DOWN BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THEIR RELATIVES SAID OR DID. HE GAVE NO DETAILS.

"I CAN'T RECALL ANY CASES LIKE THAT-" SAID SMITH. "BUT I CAN READILY UNDERSTAND HOW AN OCCASIONAL CASE LIKE THAT CAN ARISE."

SMITH SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HE REJECTED SOME "HIGHLY DESIRABLE PEOPLE" BECAUSE THEY HAD CLOSE RELATIVES LIVING BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN.

HE EXPLAINED IT WOULD BE HAZARDOUS TO EMPLOY SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE OF THE DANGER THAT HIS RELATIVE MIGHT BE HELD AS A HOSTAGE.

SMITH- NOW VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF AMERICAN MACHINE AND FOUNDRY CO.- SAID HE COULD ALSO VISUALIZE HAVING TO REJECT SOMEONE OTHERWISE QUALIFIED IF HE WERE MARRIED TO A PERSON WHO CAME FROM A COMMUNIST COUNTRY.

LOY HENDERSON- DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ADMINISTRATION- PREVIOUSLY SAID HE WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE CASES MENTIONED BY WRISTON- AND TOLD NEWSMEN HE WAS SURE THEY DID NOT TAKE PLACE SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE LAST JANUARY.

HENDERSON SAID IT WAS "UNFAIR TO REJECT A MAN MERELY ON THOSE GROUNDS-" AND HARDY ASSERTED THAT "AS A GENERAL THING- IT'S AN AWFULLY POOR PRACTICE." 118PJM

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